

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wed., October 31, 2014 @ 12:00 @ the Ernest Davis Room in the Town Hall

Members Present: Chairman Karin Nelson, Secretary Ginny Gassman, Al Hoch, Bev Nelson, Scott Bartlett, Paul Ardito

Members Absent: Cathy Cunningham, Dave Joyce, Paul Daisy

Others Present: Bill Gassman, Amy Smagula (DES), Marc Bellaud (ACT)

The meeting began at 12:05 PM

Agenda

2014 Wrap-Up

Members of the committee have heard positive comments from the public related to this year's treatment and harvesting efforts.

Generally, Amy thinks the rate of milfoil regrowth is getting lower.

Lee's Pond:

Karin discussed an area in Lee's Pond that will take two days to handpick. The question is would it be cheaper or better to use herbicide? Can we treat the area with herbicide if it is smaller than an acre? Al said they have treated smaller areas in the past. There would be DASH work to follow up. Al thinks hand pulling is better unless it is a difficult area with rocks, etc.

The committee asked Marc what is the smallest area in size we'd want to complete herbicide treatment on. Marc said we have to consider the dilution issue. We can do smaller areas if we are not subject to dilution. 360 degree exposure to untreated water is challenging.

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Sites in the past have had to be a least an acre in order to warrant herbicide treatment, but it will be a judgment call, and we could possibly cut it down a little bit more. Potentially we could get down to as small as half an acre, but we would want to get the herbicide dose up.

Maps

Amy provided the group with two maps. The first map of 2014 treatment areas can be found here [map on Milfoil Comm. webpage](#). The map shows some areas that were treated twice.

Amy discussed the second map she provided, entitled "Lake Winnepesaukee Moultonborough May, July and August 2014 Comparison." This map shows red dots where milfoil was found during the June treatment survey, blue dots for the July treatment survey, and yellow dots for the August survey.

1-2 Punch

The committee discussed that strategy we attempted called the 1-2 punch, where we treated with Diquat, then planned to follow up with 2,4-D in the fall.

Al reported that some areas where we used Diquat have lots of milfoil growing now, including areas 10,14, a portion of 15 by light marker 52, areas 18, 19, 20, and 21 (per the treatment map discussed above). We did not see a lot of milfoil to warrant fall treatment in these Diquat areas. Areas were in deep water, as well, which may have obscured the milfoil at the time of the survey. There was no benefit in treating with 2,4-D in the planned follow-up, since there was not or did not appear to be enough plants there to treat.

At Lee's Pond, on the NW side of the Island, Bev and Karin saw little tiny plants in the spring that have now grown to level 4 milfoil. This may have been what happened in the Diquat treatment areas.

Marc believes we still benefited from the Diquat treatment because the plants were weakened. We still should see enhanced efficacy if we go after the plants in these areas in the spring with 2,4-D.

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Scott asked Marc if he will be recommending the 1-2 punch method next year. We did it because we were concerned about plants developing a tolerance to some of the herbicides. Marc responded that we are not getting enough regrowth to warrant the follow-up treatment; instead we will try the targeted application method described above.

According to Marc, we want to keep our eye on if the plants building up tolerance, but so far there is not much evidence that this is the case.

Lake Host program

There were 163 saves. We didn't have a lot of milfoil floating around. Winnepesaukee has far fewer fragments than in prior years.

2015 Planning

This summer, Marc went out on Winnepesaukee with the makers of Navigate (2,4-D) and they discussed how we should approach stubborn areas. They concluded that using higher rates of 3 ppm instead of 2 ppm directly on the sites in a more targeted application would work better. The total acreage treated will be lower, but the total amount of herbicide used would be the same. They would use a handheld system (blower) in the smaller areas. This will allow us to focus the pellets on top of the plants. ACT experimented with this method in 2014, including at Melvin Village Marina in Tuftonboro and it seemed to work well.

Al suggested this would work well in some areas, such as areas 19 and 20, which are in deep water.

Experiments with curtains and benthic barriers

Karin said we might want to use three types of approaches to see how curtains and benthic barriers would work. We decided Area 10 (barrier), and Area 21 (curtain) would work. We don't know if we want to do this in the June treatment or if we might want to wait for July.

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2015 surveying

The timing of the pre-treatment surveys in 2014 gave us too little time to plan or double check areas. Amy always tries to wait as long as possible to do the surveys close to the treatment date. In 2015 she will plan to do the surveys approximately 3.5 weeks before the treatment.

State Permit

Marc has asked if they town has gotten much negative feedback about the treatments in July. The answer was no. Marc wants to propose that the first treatment 2015 would happen in July with the other bridle shiner treatments, then the September would be a contingency for follow up. The committee agreed that there would be negative reaction to any July treatment near homes which would invite public criticism.

Amy likes the three different windows for treatment. We should get the permitting for the three dates, but we don't have to use them if we don't need to.

The end of the school year is June 17th in Moultonborough.

Amy said, for the state permit for 2015, we will ask to use Navigate (2,4-D) only, increasing the concentration on tighter foot print. She will get us the updated map with potential treatment areas highlighted. She recommends potential treatment of up to 150 acres.

DASH bids

The committee would like Amy to handle the solicitations for the DASH bids as she did last year. Two weeks from now the bids for the pulling contracts will be out.

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Lee's Pond Plans

Amy would like the state permit to allow a little more than the ½ acre that Karin and Bev have seen. We don't need to treat all this if it isn't necessary. Based on Amy's survey in September, there was more milfoil there than expected. There was significant hand pulling in Lee's Pond after Amy surveyed. Amy will request something realistic for the permitting process.

Future treatment options

Scott's asked if there any technology on the horizon that would benefit us and be cost effective. Marc talked about a contact herbicide like Diquat but more effective than Diquat. ACT had permit approval this year to do one small lake in Southern NH that had problematic native milfoil, and this new herbicide was effective. Marc suggested it might be worth looking at in the future after more testing on variable milfoil. The herbicide is called Stingray with active ingredient carfentrazone. It is more expensive than Navigate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman

Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson

Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman